

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 03303 211442Z

61

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 211145Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3974
INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USDEL JEC PARIS
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3303

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC, HU, ICRC, ID, IR, PL, PINS, VS
SUBJECT: DIPLOMATIC NOTE CONCERNING AMERICANS TRAPPED IN
BAN ME THUOT

REF: SAIGON 3154

1. THE TEXT OF THE THIRD PERSON NOTE DELIVERED TO AMBASSADOR SUHUD, CHAIRMAN OF ICCS, ON MARCH 21 FOLLOWS:
2. BEGIN TEXT. THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CONTROL AND SUPERVISION AND HAS THE HONOR TO REQUEST THE ASSISTANCE OF THE ICCS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM THE TWO PARTIES TO THE THE TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION REGARDING THE WHEREABOUTS AND SAFETY OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS PRESENT IN BAN ME THUOT DURING THE RECENT HOSTILITIES THERE; AND TO HELP EFFECT THEIR SAFE RETURN.

THE FOLLOWING U.S. CITIZENS WERE IN BAN ME THUOT:

1. MR. PAUL A. STRUHARIK, USAID PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE
2. MR. JOHN D. MILLER, SUMMER INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 03303 211442Z

3. MRS. CAROLYN P. MILLER, WIFE OF ABOVE

4. MISS LUCILLE A. MILLER, DAUGHTER OF ABOVE
5. MRS. BETTY J. MITCHELL, CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE
6. MR. RICHARD L. PHILLIPS, CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE
7. MRS. LILLIAN M. PHILLIPS, CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE
8. MR. JAY SCARBOROUGH, CORNELL UNIVERSITY LINGUIST ON FORD FOUNDATION GRANT.

ALL OF THE ABOVE PERSONS WERE PRESENT AT THE OFFICE-COMPOUND OF MR. STRUHARIK WHEN RADIO CONTACT WAS LOST ON MARCH 12.

IN ADDITION, THE FOLLOWING U.S. CITIZENS WERE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN IN THE BAN ME THUOT AREA AT THE SAME TIME ALTHOUGH THEIR EXACT WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN;

MRS. LINDA SMITH, WIFE OF FEDERAL ELECTRIC EMPLOYEE, SAIGON
MICHELLE LYNN SMITH, DAUGHTER OF ABOVE.

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXTEND TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CONTROL AND SUPERVISION RENEWED ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.
END TEXT.

3. COPIES OF THE ABOVE NOTE WERE DELIVERED TO EACH OF THE FOUR DELEGATIONS IN THE ICCS.

4. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR SUHUD DOUBTED THAT HE WOULD BE AUTHORIZED BY THE COMMUNIST MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION TO MAKE A FORMAL WRITTEN REQUEST TO THE TPJMC. THIS WAS BASED ON THEIR PREVIOUS REFUSAL TO ALLOW THE POLISH CHAIRMAN LAST MONTH TO FORMALLY APPROACH THEM CONCERNING THE TWO ICCS DELEGATES TRAPPED IN BAN ME THUOT. THE MOST THAT CAN BE EXPECTED IS AN AGREEMENT THAT HE APPROACH THEM INFORMALLY AS WAS DONE IN THE CASE OF THE ICCS DELEGATES.
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